UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/1
21 September 1992

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Commodities
Intergovernmental Group of Experts
on Tungsten
First session
Geneva, 7 December 1992
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. (a) Examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and outlook

   (b) Consideration of industry views on particular aspects of the tungsten industry

4. Consideration of ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strengthened international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

5. Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities

GE 92 - 52210

6. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Group

7. Other business

8. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group to the Standing Committee on Commodities.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

At the opening of the session, the Intergovernmental Group should elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. The chairmanship of the sessions of the Committee on Tungsten before its suspension was rotated alternately between producing and consuming countries. In this respect, it is recalled that the twenty-third session of the Committee, which was the last session of the Committee before its suspension, was chaired by Mr. Esteban Orbegoso (Spain).

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda reproduced mutatis mutandis in section I above was approved by the Committee on Tungsten at its twenty-third session (see annex III in TD/B/C.1/320 - TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/91).

Item 3(a): Examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and outlook

The discussions on this item will start at the first meeting of the Group following the adoption of the agenda. In order to facilitate the examination of statistics, the secretariat will provide an advance copy of the annual bulletin of Tungsten Statistics to all member States in advance of the session in accordance with the agreed deadline. At the opening of the session, supplementary statistics will be made available in the form of a quarterly bulletin, which will include the latest data received from Governments and industry so as to give an up-to-date situation before the discussion starts. The two documents will be the working papers for the deliberations. The Group is expected to examine and, through its deliberations, to amplify and improve the available statistics, and thereby the transparency of the tungsten market. Efforts are particularly needed to fill existing gaps where statistics are not supplied to the secretariat. The hopes expressed in this regard in the Committee on Tungsten at its twenty-third session have not yet yielded any significant result.

With respect to the review of the current market situation and outlook, it is proposed for the Group to proceed as follows:

(a) Examination of the report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Current developments and short-term outlook in the tungsten market" TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/3);

(b) Presentation of national statements by Governments to review the current situation and outlook in national markets as well as on the global market;

(c) Contributions by industry advisers to cover the global or national market situation and outlook or both, and aspects influencing trends and developments in the tungsten market;

(d) Preparation of an assessment of the current situation and outlook for the international tungsten market, which will be included in the report of the Group.

Item 3(b): Consideration of industry views on particular aspects of the tungsten industry

Under this item, arrangements are being made to invite guest speakers to address the Group on topics which are currently of interest to the tungsten industry. Government and industry representatives are encouraged to raise issues for discussion following the presentations by guest speakers with a view to assisting the Group in its work. It would also be useful if the Group could suggest the topics for presentation by guest speakers at the next (second) session.

The discussions under item 3(a) and item 3(b) are expected to be completed by the end of the second day of the session.

Item 4: Consideration of ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strengthened international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

This item is intended as a follow-up of the discussions under item 3. The discussion is expected to determine the future work programme of the Group and the agenda for the second session of the Group. Deliberations on this item are expected to be concluded on the third day of the session at the latest.

Item 5: Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities

It will be recalled that an Ad hoc Meeting on Tungsten was convened on 2-3 July 1992 with the specific purpose of considering project proposals. The Meeting considered four project proposals, namely the three project proposals submitted by China which had been revised on the basis of comments received from members of the Committee on Tungsten (TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/AC.2) and a project proposal submitted by the International Tungsten Industry Association (ITIA) (TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/AC.3). As regards the Chinese project proposals, it was agreed that any comments and questions regarding them should be communicated to China before 31 October 1992 with a copy to the UNCTAD secretariat and interested countries (see report of the Ad hoc Meeting TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/2, paragraph 13). As regards the ITIA project proposal, it was also agreed that capitals which had queries on the project should write directly to the ITIA by 31 October 1992 with a copy to the UNCTAD secretariat and to interested countries (see report TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/2, paragraph 15). The project proposals submitted by China and the International Tungsten Industry Association are expected to be discussed further to reach final conclusions.

Deliberations on this item are expected to be concluded on the third day of the Meeting at the latest.

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Group

In the light of discussions at this session, the Group may wish to consider the provisional agenda for its second session.